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7 MARCH 2004

ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.

v

brisbane strikers
(1st elimination final)

official magazine
ISSUE 13

MATCH PROGRAM
$2

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ADELAIDE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

– formed 2003 –

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Phone	(08) 8241 7122
Capacity	15 200 (all seated)
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President	Basil Scarsella AM
Administration	Sam Ciccarello Liz Davison
Media/Marketing	Angelo Picca
Marketing Services	Alison Papas
Football Manager	John Perin
Team Manager	Orazio Di Carlo
Head Coach	John Kosmina
Assistant Coach	Aurelio Vidmar
Captain	Aurelio Vidmar

from the prez

As we welcome Brisbane Strikers for the first of the finals matches in 2004, we also congratulate our team for achieving third place in the minor round and wish them the very best of luck during the finals.

All South Australians thank you for the contribution you have made to the revival of soccer in this state.

In the last edition of info.united, I thanked the various groups that have contributed to the success of Adelaide United during the year. As we approach the end of the season however, I would like on behalf of all soccer supporters in South Australia, to specifically thank the Pickard Group for their contribution.

Gordon Pickard's corporate contacts and immense credibility in South Australia, combined with his financial support, have all come together for the establishment of Adelaide United.

Without the support of Gordon Pickard and his group of companies, Adelaide United would not have happened.

As we enjoy the finals series and reflect on the 2003/04 season, it is vital that we start planning for 2004/05 to ensure that Adelaide United continues to grow.

Under any measure, our first season has been successful, however with a regenerated national soccer league in 2004/05, we as a club must continue to develop on all fronts to ensure that we remain competitive both on and off the park.

The public's expectations have been set very high, our challenge is to ensure that we satisfy those expectations in the future.

Please enjoy the game and thank you for supporting Adelaide United.

BASIL SCARSELLA
President
Adelaide United Football Club

*Another **HOME GAME** depends on AUFC winning this Elimination Final (over 2 legs) - an AUFC win will ensure a home match on w/end 19-21 March*

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sean widera

you didn't get to play this season due to injury... can you tell us a bit about the injury, and your rehabilitation?
I tore my anterior cruciate ligament in my left knee, which required re-building. At this stage my rehab is mainly concentrated on building up my quad and hamstring muscle, and also some bike work.

during the rehabilitation process how do you stay motivated to keep training and stay fit?
Watching the boys run out every home game in front of a full house is all the motivation I need.

what are your goals for next season, both on and off the field?
I'd love to be involved with Adelaide United next season, I know it's up to me to prove my fitness and I'm looking forward to the challenge off the field. I work full time at Prestige Car Sales as finance broker so ideally I'd love to sell every AU supporter a car and do their finance... just kidding (yeah sure! - Ed.)

when you are not playing or training, what do you do for fun?
I enjoy playing tennis and golf, catching up with friends, and have a bit of a passion for European cars.

where do you see yourself in five years time?
I'd love to still be in Adelaide working and hopefully playing for United. I suppose at 27 I might want to start thinking about a family as well, but five years is a long time and lots can happen.

michael brooks

you scored a goal in both of your first two matches for United - how did that feel?
It felt unbelievable to score in my first two games, especially in my debut match for United - it was great to get the points, the boys battled hard and deserved them. I never dreamed I'd start off like that!

you joined united only a few weeks ago - how have you adjusted to your new team and team mates?
Adjusting has been OK - the more I play, the better understanding I'm getting of the team and what they expect of me. My team mates have been fantastic - they have accepted me really well - although I've played with or against most of them before so in some way it was just getting re-aquainted.

how have you found your return to nsl level soccer after a few years break?
Pretty tough because of the lack of preparation, but I'm feel I'm getting stronger and looking to make a significant contribution in the finals series.

do you think you will continue playing beyond this season? would you want to play with united again next season?
It's up to Kossie if he wants me to play next year, if he thinks I can be of value then I'd love to play for United. This is one experience I don't ever want to end!

how do you feel about playing finals matches? what do you do to prepare for big matches both physically and mentally?
Finals and grand finals are what you play for. All the hard work that's been put in for eight or nine months comes down to finals and achieving your goal to win the title - nothing else matters. I prepare by eating early so I don't feel heavy for games... then I like to relax, watch TV on the lounge with my feet up and think about who could be marking me and how to beat them - mind is very important.

carl veart

how does it feel to have played 300 nsl matches in you career, and what is your most memorable moment from these matches?

It's great to have played 300 NSL matches and I look forward to playing a lot more for Adelaide United. My most memorable moments are playing and winning two NSL Grand Finals with Adelaide City, and the first game for Adelaide United.

you played for a number of teams overseas - can you tell us a bit about the clubs you played for and your experiences as an aussie in the UK?
Sheffield United (1994 to 1996), Crystal Palace (1996 to 1997) and Millwall (1997 to 1998) were all professional clubs with great supporters - just like we have at Adelaide United. Everyone wanted to know about Australia!

you have scored ten goals for United this season, surely you must be happy with your form so far this season?
Actually I would have liked to have scored a few more goals but overall I am reasonably satisfied - now I want to get to the Grand Final.

when you are not playing or training, what do you do for fun?
Play with my kids, and the occasional game of golf.

you have just embarked on a new career path as a real estate agent... is this something you will pursue after your playing days are over?
Yes, I am really enjoying it and am fortunate to be working at LJ Hooker Golden Grove, where I can learn from their great team.

what are your feelings about the finals? do you approach a finals match the same way as a regular season match?
Yes, I will be approaching it the same. I am feeling confident that we can do well. We have such a great team atmosphere amongst the players and with the fantastic support we receive from our supporters we can go all the way!

besides playing, what is the most enjoyable aspect of being part of adelaide united?
It's great being involved with such a professional club and having so much support from everyone.

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from the coach

Last week I wrote about the people involved with the club that rarely, if ever, get a mention. That is the reason I chose to write about them. Some have a profile within the game in South Australia but as far as Adelaide United is concerned their efforts are yet to be acknowledged publicly. They are an important part of a "team". An important part of the United family! They are people that work for the greater good of the club and its family members with often little recognition. And the beautiful part is they don't seek it. They are just good people.

Another important part of this family/team is the players. For me the game always has been and always will be about players. Without them there is no game! Coaches, administrators, management, staff of all descriptions can come and go but the players are the ones the fans pay to watch. Their performance on the park generally relates to how the club performs off the park. If they don't perform eventually the club doesn't perform. Life becomes difficult for those that rely on the club for a living (including the players). The whole structure starts to collapse. It's a big responsibility on a player if you look at it from this perspective. That's why it's important for a club to look after its players. Conversely that's why it's important for players to keep a good perspective on things and not take any opportunities that may come their way for granted. The players at Adelaide United have not taken what they have for granted - that's why they are still playing at this stage of the season. The players work for each other for the good of the team. The individual sacrifices' for the group. The old saying about a " star team" as opposed to a team of stars is certainly apt.

I'm not sure if I get to write in the next program (all things going well), so I'll say a BIG thank you to our sponsors and our fantastic supporters. You have been great to the point of inspirational and you are all welcome and important family members.

Go United - **Kossie**

from the captain

Welcome all.

Hasn't the season flown by? It seems like just the other night we were all involved in that historic opening match on October 17 against Brisbane Strikers. We have had plenty of joy and excitement over the last few months, and to finish 3rd after the minor round in our first season as a new club has been an outstanding achievement. Well done to everyone involved.

Last week, Kossie, Richie Alagich and myself had the pleasure of meeting Dr Joe Venglos, who is here in Australia to assess where soccer is at, and to help make the game move forward. It was very interesting to hear his opinions and recommendations which included full time football and more games in a season which is required to improve the standard and intensity of the competition. I think we all agree that this is the only way forward. A cup competition involving the Premier League clubs is also a must. I don't know whether our league will ever be a "first past the post is the winner" competition, where the top team after the completion of the minor round is the champion. Having played in this type of competition, I personally prefer the first past the post method as I believe it rewards the most consistent team and also intensifies the home and away series.

We all wait with anticipation to hear the formal outcome of Dr Joe's findings of the world game in Australia.

For this season, the real excitement begins for us tonight, and don't the Australian public love a finals series. It doesn't matter which code it is, it really is a totally different atmosphere. Finals matches are cut throat, and don't leave too much room for error. A lot of our younger players will experience finals for the first time. I'm sure the build up to the games and the hype from all avenues will be an eye opener for them. I can only encourage them to stay focused and enjoy the moment.

Once again, you, the supporters become our 12th man to help us get over the line tonight.

Enjoy the match. Be loud.

Aurelio Vidmar

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Angelo Picca

Well, what a tremendous season it has been for the Adelaide United Football Club. From my point of view, the initial expectations were to a certain degree uncertain, however that view rapidly changed as the season unfolded.

It seems only a short time ago that we pulled together as a community to set up the foundations for a sport that has suffered for many years for reasons that are known to us, but also for many reasons that are unknown!

However, tens of thousands of soccer enthusiasts are finally coming to grips with the reality that soccer has returned as a force and is now well established and integrated in the family of sports in South Australia. Also add the fact that Adelaide United is in fact one of the prominent teams in South Australia and few could argue United is positioned third after the **Adelaide Crows** and **Port Adelaide Power** in terms of popularity.

It has been a colossal amount of work by a number of people that possess a great deal of enthusiasm, passion, but share the same vision and desire to succeed.

Importantly, the responsibility and the success we all share has made it worthwhile and the great deal of satisfaction from my point of view is in fact the way people talk about Adelaide United Football Club and the way the sport of soccer is perceived right across Australia.

I take the opportunity to extend my warmest of thanks to prominent guarantor and long standing supporter of soccer **Mr Gordon Pickard** and the Pickard Group, **Mr Basil Scarsella** for showing great leadership, to the corporate and commercial clients, to the media for outstanding coverage throughout the season, to the soccer family **SASF**, (**Premier League and State League clubs**, **Womens Soccer League**, **Futsal**, **Junior Soccer Association** and the **South Australian Amateur Soccer League**), to the **Coaching Staff**, **Football Department** and last but most importantly the **players** for helping all of the soccer community to fulfil the long awaited dream to steer and accomplish the rise of a special team – Adelaide United Football Club.

The above personnel and organizations have assisted greatly to helping Adelaide United become the flagship of the sport of soccer in South Australia - and Australia.

Promotional Visitations

During the week as a lead up to the first leg of the elimination final against the Strikers, the Adelaide United players returned to **Rundle Mall** to pay tribute and touch base with the ardent United fans. **Michael "Volkano" Valkanis**, captain **Aurelio Vidmar**, **David Scarsella**, **Shane Thompson**, **Ross Aloisi** and the ever popular **Freddy Agius** were in the Mall much to the delight of thousands of fans wishing the players well and cheering the boys on for tonight's inaugural final.

Marketing Services

Taking a well earned rest and with the danger of collecting another yellow card, robust midfielder **Ross Aloisi** did not travel to Sydney for the match against Northern Spirit last week. Instead, Ross was flying the flag for the promotional department when he attended the **McGuinness/McDermott Foundation Fundraiser Function** proudly organised by **officematrix**. **officematrix** director **Joe Trimboli** was delighted to see Ross attend. Ross was pleasantly surprised when he received a rousing applause and was later told that he in fact was more popular than the **Adelaide Crows** and **Port Adelaide Power** players. Well done Ross!

Match Day Involvement

The half-time **Pura Milk** Cup, featuring SASF Under 12 teams, concluded last week with **Adelaide Olympic** winning the Grand Final over Cumberland. Well done boys, you've done your great club proud!

SPECIAL MESSAGE

For the countless hours and contribution made throughout the NSL season 2003/2004, the Adelaide United Football Club wishes to recognise the Board of Management of AUFC:

Basil Scarsella (President)	**Tony Farrugia**
	Brett Graham
Donald Campbell	**Andrew Haralampopoulos**
Sam Ciccarello	**Tony Henshaw**
Alex Cichanowski	**Bev O'Brien**
Arthur Di Fede	**Angelo Picca**
Mickey Dye	**Sam Settecasi**

Community Involvement

One of Adelaide United's biggest fans, seven year old **Ryan Mugan**, is flying off to the US next week for major surgery. Brave Ryan suffers from rare tumor in the back of his head. Before setting off overseas, Ryan met with his Adelaide United heroes at training at Hindmarsh through the week. We all wish you well Ryan, and will be thinking of you.

Shoot-for-goal competition

The shoot for goal competition has continued to be a huge success for the fans. Well done to **Port Adelaide** Champion **Russel Ebert** for the outstanding effort in hitting the round ball with such precision, getting through the target and winning $2000 for the **Pickard Foundation**. **FiveAA** colleague **Graham "Studley" Cornes** was furious when told that **Ebert** had once again shown great skill and supremacy winning the competition and in doing so, upstaging and embarrassing **Cornes** who was the only player to wear boots! Thanks also to **5DN's Steve Jacquier**, **Rebekah Devlin** (Adelaide Confidential – Advertiser), **Rachel Sporn**, **John "The Rat" Platten**, **Mark Davis** and **Jodie Blewett** (Channel 10 Sport).

Meanwhile, previous 'shoot-for-goal' winners have been joining the Adelaide United squad on trips interstate over recent weeks. Congratulations to recent winners, **Chris Doyle**, **Rob Thornton** and **Christian Verdicchio**, who spent last weekend with the team in Sydney at the Northern Spirit match. Check out the fun the 'shoot-for-goals' winners had with Christian's account of the weekend appearing elsewhere in this issue of info.united.

The President, The Patron and the Advertising Guru

It was good to see three legends enjoying a coffee at the **Magic Millions Race Breakfast Function** earlier in the week.

When I speak of legends I mean Adelaide United Patron **Mr Gordon Pickard**, inaugural President of Adelaide United **Mr Basil Scarsella** and Advertising guru and member of **Frank Lowy**'s ASA board **Mr John Singleton.**

I am certain that at some stage or another the subject of soccer and **Adelaide United** may have come up in conversation?

Adelaide United Finals Treat! New Merchandise

Adelaide United fans will have the opportunity to purchase some stylish merchandise specifically made for United's Finals campaign. A wide range of attractive apparel in all sizes for Women, Men and kids is available from the Western Grandstand merchandise booth and the Manton Street – Eastern gate booth. Thanks to **Sekem** and Sam Parkinson from **Parkinson & Blunden** for the production and the opportunity to making the merchandise available on time for the fans. Well done **Sam and Tom Parkinson!**

Angelo Picca
Marketing/Media Manager, Adelaide United Football Club

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ADELAIDEUNITEDPLAYERS

1. David Scarsella
Born: 12-Oct-82 **Position:** Goalkeeper
Australian honours: Schoolboys
NSL debut: 24-Nov-02, for Adelaide City (D1-1 v Northern Spirit) aged 20
NSL stats: 28 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Adelaide City (NSL)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W2-D0-L1

2. Richie Alagich
Born: 30-Oct-73 **Position:** Defender
Aust. honours: Schoolboys, Under 20, Under 23
NSL debut: 28-Nov-93, for West Adelaide (L0-2 v Bris Strikers Stallions) aged 20
NSL stats: 198 games / 6 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Brisbane Strikers (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), West Adelaide (NSL), Port Adelaide (SA), Birkalla (SA)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W4-D2-L5

3. Kristian Rees
Born: 6-Jan-80 **Position:** Defender
NSL debut: 20-Oct-00, for Adelaide City (L0-2 v Sydney United) aged 20
NSL stats: 63 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Para Hills (SA)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W2-D1-L2

4. Aaron Goulding
Born: 29-Apr-82 **Position:** Defender
Aust. honours: Under 17, Under 20, Under 23
NSL debut: 29-Oct-00, for Adelaide City (L0-3 v Sydney Olympic) aged 18
NSL stats: 42 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Playford City (SA), Para Hills (SA), SASI
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W1-D0-L2

5. Mike Valkanis
Born: 23-Aug-74 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: Under 23
NSL debut: 25-Oct-92, for South Melbourne (D1-1 v Preston) aged 18
NSL stats: 107 games / 4 goals / 2 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Agios Nikolaos (Greece), Larissa (Greece), Iraklis (Greece), South Melbourne (NSL)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W3-D0-L5

6. Ross Aloisi
Born: 17-Apr-73 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Under 17, Under 23, Socceroos (5 games)
NSL debut: 14-Oct-90, for Adelaide City (D2-2 v Wollongong United) aged 17
NSL stats: 124 games / 17 goals / 2 send-offs
Former clubs: Pro Sesto (Italy), Alzano (Italy), Grazer (Austria), Lorient (France), Aarau (Switzerland), West Adelaide (NSL), Brunswick (NSL), Adelaide City (NSL), FC Boom (Belgium)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W4-D1-L5

7. David Terminello
Born: 30-Aug-80 **Position:** Midfielder
Aust. honours: Schoolboys,Under 17,Under 20
NSL debut: 11-Oct-98, for Adelaide City (L0-1 v Perth Glory) aged 18
NSL stats: 120 games / 7 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Carlton (NSL), SASI, Campbelltown (SA)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W4-D2-L2

8. Carl Veart
Born: 21-May-70 **Position:** Striker
Aust. honours: U/23, Socceroos (23 games)
NSL debut: 04-Nov-89, for Adelaide City (W2-0 v Wollongong Wolves) aged 19
NSL stats: 300 games / 76 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Millwall (England), Crystal Palace (England), Sheffield Utd (England), Salisbury (SA), Whyalla Croatia (SA)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W8-D3-L6

9. Shane Smeltz
Born: 29-Sep-81 **Position:** Striker
Representative honours: New Zealand Under 20, Under 23, senior team
NSL debut: 27-Nov-99, for Brisbane Strikers (W5-1 v South Melbourne) aged 18
NSL stats: 55 games / 8 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Napier City (New Zealand), Brisbane Strikers (NSL), Gold Coast City (Qld), Queensland Academy of Sport
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W1-D0-L1

10. Aurelio Vidmar (c)
Born: 3-Feb-67 **Position:** Midfielder
Aust. honours: Olyroos, Socceroos (53 games)
NSL debut: 10-Mar-85, for Adelaide City (L0-3 v Melbourne Knights) aged 18
NSL stats: 290 games / 52 goals / 4 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), San Frecce Hiroshima (Japan), Tenerife (Spain), Sion (Switzerland), Feyenoord (Holland), Standard Liege (Belgium), Waregem (Belgium), Kortrijk (Belgium)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W3-D1-L4

11. Goran Lozanovski
Born: 11-Jan-74 **Position:** Midfielder
Aust. honours: U20, U23, Socceroos (9 games)
NSL debut: 09-Feb-92, for Preston (W4-0 v West Adelaide) aged 18
NSL stats: 254 games / 27 goals / 4 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Alemannia Aachen (Germany), South Melbourne (NSL), Collingwood Warriors (NSL), Preston (NSL), AIS, Altona Gate (Vic)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W10-D3-L5

12. Shane Thompson
Born: 24-Nov-78 **Position:** Defender
NSL debut: 28-Nov-03, for Adelaide United (D2-2 v Wollongong Wolves) aged 25
NSL stats: 11 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Enfield Falcons (SA), Northern Spirit (NSL), Birkalla (SA), Adelaide City (NSL)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W0-D0-L1

14. Sean Widera
Born: 18-Nov-81 **Position:** Striker
NSL stats: –
Former clubs: Raiders (SA), Croydon (SA), Adelaide City (SA), Hibernian (Scotland), SASI

15. Aaron Westervelt
Born: 21-Nov-79 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Schoolboys
NSL debut: 15-Mar-98, for West Adelaide (W1-0 v Perth Glory) aged 18
NSL stats: 31 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Enfield Falcons (SA), Para Hills (SA), Birkalla (SA), Elizabeth (SA), West Adelaide (NSL), AIS, SASI
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W1-D0-L3

16. Michael Brooks
Born: 24-Mar-71 **Position:** Striker
NSL debut: 18-Mar-90, for Adelaide City (W2-1 v Preston) aged 18
NSL stats: 141 games / 26 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: White City (SA), Blue Eagles (SA), Macarthur (NSW), Wollongong Wolves (NSL), Salisbury (SA), Adelaide City (NSL), Campbelltown (SA)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W4-D3-L2

17. Mimi Saric
Born: 3-Sep-83 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Under 17
NSL debut: 18-Jan-02, for Adelaide City (W3-2 v Melbourne Knights) aged 18
NSL stats: 24 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Raiders (SA), AIS, SASI, Campbelltown (SA)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W1-D0-L1

18. Fred Agius
Born: 2-Feb-84 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Under 17
NSL debut: 22-Feb-02, for Sydney Olympic (W3-0 v Adelaide City) aged 18
NSL stats: 13 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Sydney Olympic (NSL), Playford City (SA), SASI
Personal record v Bris Strikers: –

19. Elias Demourtzidis
Born: 25-Jun-81 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Under 20
NSL debut: 25-Oct-98, for West Adelaide (L0-1 v Morwell Falcons) aged 17
NSL stats: 25 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide Olympic (SA), Sydney Olympic (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), West Adelaide (NSL), AIS, SASI
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W1-D0-L1

20. Robert Bajic
Born: 29-Jul-77 **Position:** Goalkeeper
NSL debut: 23-Nov-03, for Adelaide United (L1-2 v South Melbourne) aged 26
NSL stats: 4 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Raiders (SA), Rochedale (Qld), Rocklea (Qld)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: –

21. Adriano Pellegrino
Born: 9-Jun-84 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Under 20
NSL debut: 21-Dec-01, for Adelaide City (W3-0 v Football Kingz) aged 17
NSL stats: 27 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former club: Adelaide City (NSL)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W2-D0-L1

23. Nick Budin
Born: 18-Mar-82 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Schoolboys
NSL debut: 03-Nov-00, for Adelaide City (W4-3 v Morwell Falcons) aged 18
NSL stats: 45 games / 6 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Adelaide City (NSL)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W2-D0-L2

24. Matthew Kemp
Born: 8-Aug-80 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL debut: 24-Oct-99, for Adelaide City (D0-0 v Perth Glory) aged 19
NSL stats: 81 games / 8 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Spal (Italy), AIS, Canberra Deakin (ACT), Belconnen United (ACT)
Personal record v Bris Strikers: W3-D1-L1

COACH: John Kosmina
- Born 17-Aug-56, played for Croydon (Polonia) before joining NSL club West Adelaide 1977
- Played 102 games & scored 45 goals for the Socceroos 1976–1988; captain 1982–1986
- Played 289 games & scored 133 goals in the NSL 1977–1989; for West Adelaide, Adelaide City, Sydney City, Sydney Olympic & APIA

NSL coaching record

Season	*Club*	*Games*	*W–D–L*
95/96–97/98	Newcastle Breakers	85	15–23–47
99/00–02/03	Brisbane Strikers	140	48–36–56
03/04	Adelaide United	24	11–07–06
TOTAL NSL		249	74–66–109

Record against Brisbane Strikers: W2-D1-L5

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club honours

Champions (1)	1996/97
Finalists (4)	1995/96, 1996/97, 2001/02, 2003/04

player honours

Most games	Clint Bolton 178 games (1993/94–1999/2000)
Most goals	Rod Brown 40 goals (1994/95–1997/98)

nsl statistics

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Best result	Worst result
All matches	356	128	79	149	502	535	W7-1 v Adelaide City (03.02.96)	L0-7 v Adelaide City (29.11.95)
In Adelaide	23	2	5	16	11	44	W2-1 v West Adelaide (18.04.99)	L0-7 v Adelaide City (29.11.95)
At Hindmarsh	21	2	5	14	11	39	W2-1 v West Adelaide (18.04.99)	L0-7 v Adelaide City (29.11.95)
All finals	*7*	*2*	*0*	*5*	*6*	*10*	*W2-0 v Sydney United (25.05.97)*	*L0-2 v South Melbourne (14.05.02)*

league record (13 seasons)

	REGULAR SEASON						Ladder		Average	
Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	pos.	Teams	crowd	Top scorer – goals
91/92	26	8	10	8	31	35	6th	14	2335	Clayton Koch, Chris Slater – 6
92/93	26	5	3	18	32	64	14th	14	2068	Frank Pimblett – 6
93/94	26	10	6	10	28	25	8th	14	2460	Chris Slater – 6
94/95	24	8	6	10	34	32	7th	13	2602	Rod Brown, Chris Slater – 9
95/96	33	17	6	10	54	35	4th	12	5059	Frank Farina – 20
96/97	26	15	2	9	55	40	2nd	14	5077	Rod Brown, Frank Farina – 12
97/98	26	6	5	15	23	40	12th	14	3963	Rod Brown – 6
98/99	28	11	6	11	41	47	9th	15	4489	Stuart McLaren – 7
99/00	34	13	10	11	46	40	9th	16	3160	Paul Foster – 13
00/01	28	7	8	13	46	56	12th	15	2014	Jeromy Harris – 11
01/02	24	10	7	7	40	33	4th	13	3515	Paul Foster – 13
02/03	24	7	5	12	38	45	10th	13	2103	Anthony Roche – 12
03/04	24	9	5	10	28	33	6th	13	2566	Luke Morley – 6

finals record (3 series)

	FINALS MATCHES						
Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	Summary
95/96	2	0	0	2	1	4	Lost Elimination Final (two legs)
96/97	3	2	0	1	4	2	Won Major Semi (two legs) — Won Grand Final
01/02	2	0	0	2	1	4	Lost Elimination Final (two legs)

STRIKERS IN ADELAIDE

Date	Opponent	Result	
29.12.91	West Adel	W	1–0
23.02.92	Adel City	L	0–1
18.10.92	Adel City	L	0–1
21.02.93	West Adel	L	0–4
23.01.94	Adel City	L	0–3
06.03.94	West Adel	L	1–2
13.11.94	West Adel	L	1–2
26.03.95	Adel City	L	0–2
15.10.95	West Adel	L	0–1
29.11.95	Adel City	L	0–7
12.03.96	West Adel	L	0–3
06.04.96	Adel City	D	0–0
13.10.96	Adel City	D	0–0
01.12.96	West Adel	D	0–0
09.11.97	Adel City	L	0–1
12.04.98	West Adel	L	1–2
14.03.99	Adel City	L	0–3
18.04.99	West Adel	W	2–1
04.02.00	Adel City	L	2–6
15.04.01	Adel City	D	2–2
23.11.01	Adel City	D	1–1
17.01.03	Adel City	L	0–1
17.10.03	Adel United	L	0–1

brisbane strikers history

The Brisbane United soccer team was formed as a completely new entity in 1991 and entered the NSL in the 1991/92 season. They were a club essentially owned by the Queensland Soccer Federation, however have more recently had the backing of several private investors and Brisbane soccer stalwart Dr Clem Jones.

After a relatively successful first season, United had a drab 1992/93. A revitalisation in 1993 led to a new team name - the Strikers - and a greater promotional push. With the acquisition in 1995 of Queensland bred and current Socceroo coach Frank Farina, 1995/96 was a boom year for the Strikers - average home crowds doubled, and the team finished only one win from top position. Season 1995/96 also featured a remarkable statistical quirk – with the club recording its biggest all-time win (7-1) and biggest all-time loss (0-7), both matches against the same opponent (Adelaide City)!

But it was the following season – 1996/97 – that will go down as the year of the Strikers. The first national league grand final of any football code to be played in Brisbane was watched by 40,446, who witnessed a 2-0 victory over that season's premiers Sydney United. The crowd was a then-record attendance for any club match in Australia, and the result was the first time a team outside of Sydney-Melbourne- Adelaide had won a NSL championship. Captain/coach of the day was none other than Frank Farina.

Strikers score 500!

In last weekend's 4-3 loss to the Football Kingz in New Zealand, Brisbane Strikers notched up its 500th goal in the NSL. Goal # 500 was scored by Matthew McKay, in the seventh minute of this match.

Brisbane's first NSL goal was scored by Alan Hunter, in the fifth minute of the Strikers' (then called Brisbane United) first match - a 2-2 draw with West Adelaide on 7 October 1991 at Brisbane's Perry Park.

The match details of that historic day:

Brisbane Strikers 2 (Alan Hunter 5', 33') drew with
West Adelaide 2 (Adrian Santrac 8', Raymond Blair 75')

Brisbane Strikers: Mirko Runje, Carl Jorgensen, Steve Bullock, Glenn Gwynne, Clayton Koch, Alan Hunter, Frank Pimblett, Frank Mengotti, Danny Halligan, Ibro Cahut, Stuart Stevenson. *Subs:* John Brown, Jim McDonagh.

West Adelaide: Peter Blazincic, Lemmy Vatsilas, Kurt Reynolds, Massimo Capasso, Greg Mills, Claudio Canosa, Adrian Santrac, Raymond Blair, Con Kokkinoplitis, Mark Brazzale, Peter Rankin. *Sub*: Eddie Briscoe.

The club has not been able to capitalise on that glorious event, with on- and off-field performances since 1997 falling below expectations, apart from 2001/02 when John Kosmina led a bunch of mostly young locals to the finals. Three major losses in the 2003 off-season – key midfielder and 2001-02 NSL player of the year Fernando Rech (now with Parramatta Power), club top 2002/03 scorer Anthony Roche (Fortuna Dusseldorf, Germany) and former youth league player of the year Jon McKain (National Bucharest, Romania) – have been off-set by some decent signings, including giant local Karl Dodd, young local Luke Morley and former Adelaide boy Louis Brain. Combined with a move back to Perry Park (Queensland soccer's spiritual home), the appointment of a very young and enthusiastic Stuart McLaren as coach, the acquisition of intelligent assistant coach from Melbourne Luciano Trani, and a solid squad of mostly home-grown talent, there is a fresh and positive outlook for the Strikers in season 2003/04.

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1. Jason Kearton
Born: 10-Jul-69 **Position:** Goalkeeper
Australian honours: Socceroos
NSL stats: debut 1988 season
81 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 01/02 season
55 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Crewe Alexandra (England), Everton (England), Preston North End (England), Notts County (England), Blackpool (England), Stoke City (England), Brisbane Lions (NSL)

2. Karl Dodd
Born: 14-Nov-80 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
21 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
21 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Palm Beach (Qld), Gold Coast City (Qld), Sutherland (NSW)

3. Shane Stefanutto
Born: 13-Jan-80 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 98/99 season
124 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 98/99 season
124 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former club: Eastern Suburbs (Qld)

4. Josh McCloughan
Born: 13-Dec-75 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
23 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
23 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former club: Gold Coast City (Qld)

5. Stuart McLaren
Born: 29-Aug-75 **Position:** Defender
AIS graduate
NSL stats: debut 93/94 season
165 games / 11 goals / 1 send-off
Strikers: debut 98/99 season
142 games / 11 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Eastern Suburbs (Qld), Rangers (Hong Kong), Stirling Albion (Scotland), Wollongong United (NSW), Wollongong Wolves (NSL)

6. Peter Grierson
Born: 3-Feb-70 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 99/00 season
123 games / 19 goals / 1 send-off
Strikers: debut 99/00 season
123 games / 19 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Palm Beach (Qld), Gold Coast City (Qld), Broadbeach (Qld), Surfers Paradise (Qld), Channel Islands (England)

7. Steven Fitzsimmons
Born: 8-Sep-76 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 01/02 season
49 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
24 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Brisbane Lions (Qld), Marconi Stallions (NSL), Gold Coast City (Qld), Parramatta Power (NSL), Rochedale Rovers (Qld), Nerang (Qld), Palm Beach (Qld)

8. Adam Webber
Born: 20-Jul-82 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 99/00 season
58 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 99/00 season
58 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Mt Gravatt (Qld)

9. Matt Hilton
Born: 28-Feb-86 **Position:** Attacker
Australian honours: U17
NSL stats: debut 02/03 season
12 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
9 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Sydney Olympic (NSL)

10. Royce Brownlie
Born: 29-Jan-80 **Position:** Attacker
NSL stats: debut 97/98 season
80 games / 21 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 97/98 season
25 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Parramatta Power (NSL), Brisbane City (Qld), Marconi Stallions (NSL), Brisbane Lions (Qld), Bundaberg Waves (Qld)

11. Louis Brain
Born: 10-May-82 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: U20, U17
NSL stats: debut 98/99 season
104 games / 10 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
23 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Modbury (SA), Sydney United (NSL), Adelaide City (NSL), Para Hills (SA)

12. David Pilic
Born: 9-Sep-78 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 99/00 season
91 games / 9 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 99/00 season
91 games / 9 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Rochedale Rovers (Qld), Carrara (Qld), Broadbeach (Qld)

13. Wayne Heath
Born: 29-Apr-83 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: U23, U20
NSL stats: debut 01/02 season
32 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 01/02 season
32 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs

14. Daniel Dreger
Born: 3-Jan-82 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 00/01 season
24 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 00/01 season
24 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Pine Rivers (Qld)

15. Matthew McKay
Born: 11-Jan-83 **Position:** Midfielder
AIS graduate
Australian honours: U23, U20
NSL stats: debut 01/02 season
49 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 01/02 season
49 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs

17. Chris Scuderi
Born: 3-Feb-83 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 02/03 season
7 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 02/03 season
7 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Bundaberg Waves (Qld)

18. Warren Moon
Born: 28-May-82 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
14 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
14 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Brisbane Lions (Qld)

19. Joshua Rose
Born: 17-Dec-81 **Position:** Attacker
NSL stats: debut 01/02 season
50 games / 7 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 01/02 season
50 games / 7 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Wynnum District (Qld)

20. Scott Higgins
Born: 10-Jun-76 **Position:** Goalkeeper
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
17 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
17 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Brisbane City (Qld), Taringa Rovers (Qld), Wynnum (Qld)

21. Luke Morley
Born: 15-Jun-82 **Position:** Attacker
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
17 games / 6 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
17 games / 6 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Taringa Rovers (Qld)

22. Dean Peltohawa
Born: 1986 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
1 game / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
1 game / 0 goals / 0 send-offs

23. Josh Evans
Born: 1986 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
1 game / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 03/04 season
1 game / 0 goals / 0 send-offs

25. Corey Baldock
Born: 12-Jun-75 **Position:** Goalkeeper
NSL stats: debut 00/01 season
15 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Strikers: debut 00/01 season
15 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: The Gap (Qld), Gold Coast City (Qld), Bundaberg Waves (Qld), Bolivar (Bolivia), *Tasmania*

COACH: STUART MCLAREN

- Born in Glasgow, Scotland; moved to Brisbane at age five, later moved to Rockhampton
- Junior player at Capalaba and Mt Gravatt in Brisbane, and Berserker in Rockhampton
- Australian Institute of Sport scholarship 1992 to 1993
- Played 49 league games (scored 9 goals) Stirling Albion, Scotland
- Experienced in a variety of positions in the NSL, and as striker in 1998/99 was top scorer for Brisbane Strikers
- First season as NSL coach – youngest coach in 2003/04 NSL season

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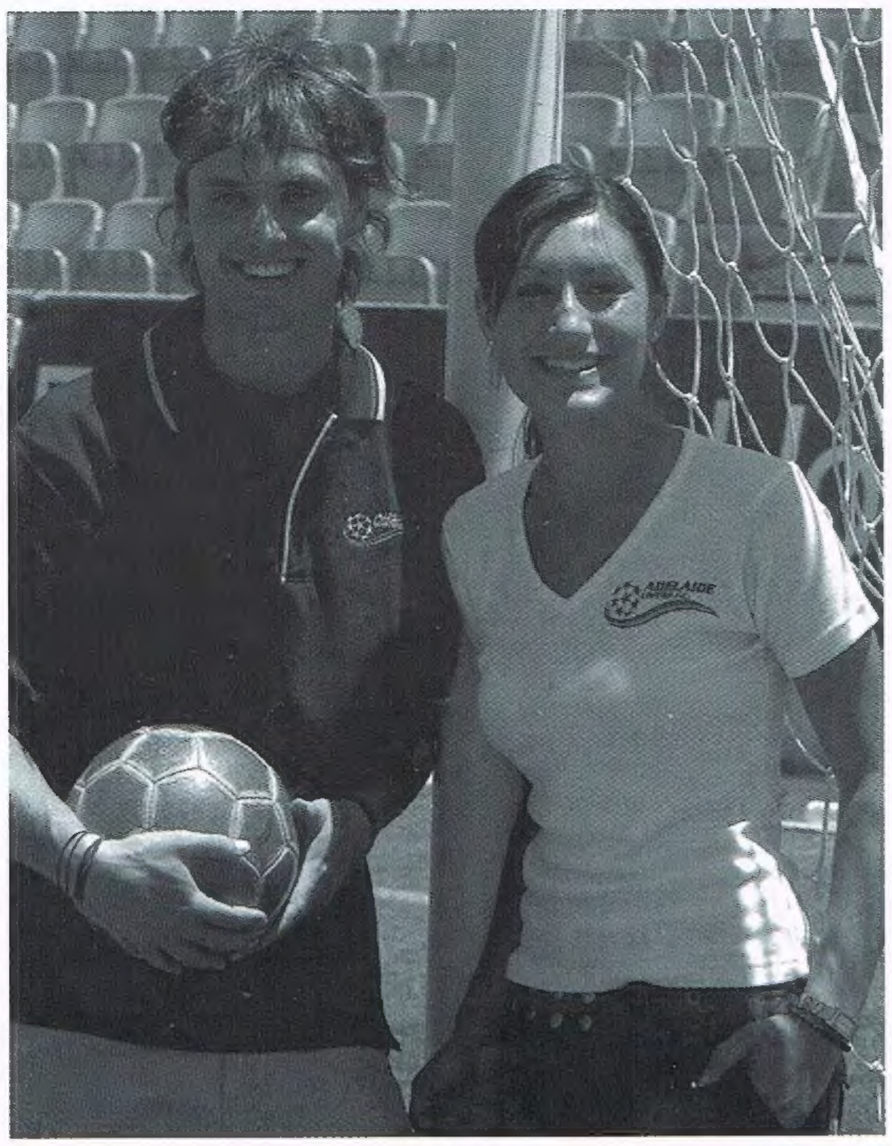

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adelaide united

No.	Name	Age	2003–04 Games	2003–04 Goals
1	David Scarsella (gk)	21	20	0
2	Richie Alagich	30	24	2
3	Kristian Rees	24	23	0
4	Aaron Goulding	21	24	0
5	Mike Valkanis	29	21	1
6	Ross Aloisi	30	22	3
7	David Terminello	23	16	1
8	Carl Veart	33	23	10
9	Shane Smeltz	22	7	1
10	Aurelio Vidmar	37	23	2
11	Goran Lozanovski	30	14	0
12	Shane Thompson	25	11	1
15	Aaron Westervelt	24	18	0
16	Michael Brooks	32	5	2
17	Mimi Saric	20	14	2
18	Fred Agius	20	9	0
19	Elias Demourtzidis	22	11	0
20	Robert Bajic (gk)	26	4	0
21	Adriano Pellegrino	19	17	1
23	Nick Budin	21	15	1
24	Matthew Kemp	23	8	1

Referee: Ben Williams (ACT) **Fourth official:** Craig Zetter
Assistant Referees: Matthew Cream, Craig Dunkin

FORM GUIDE past five games

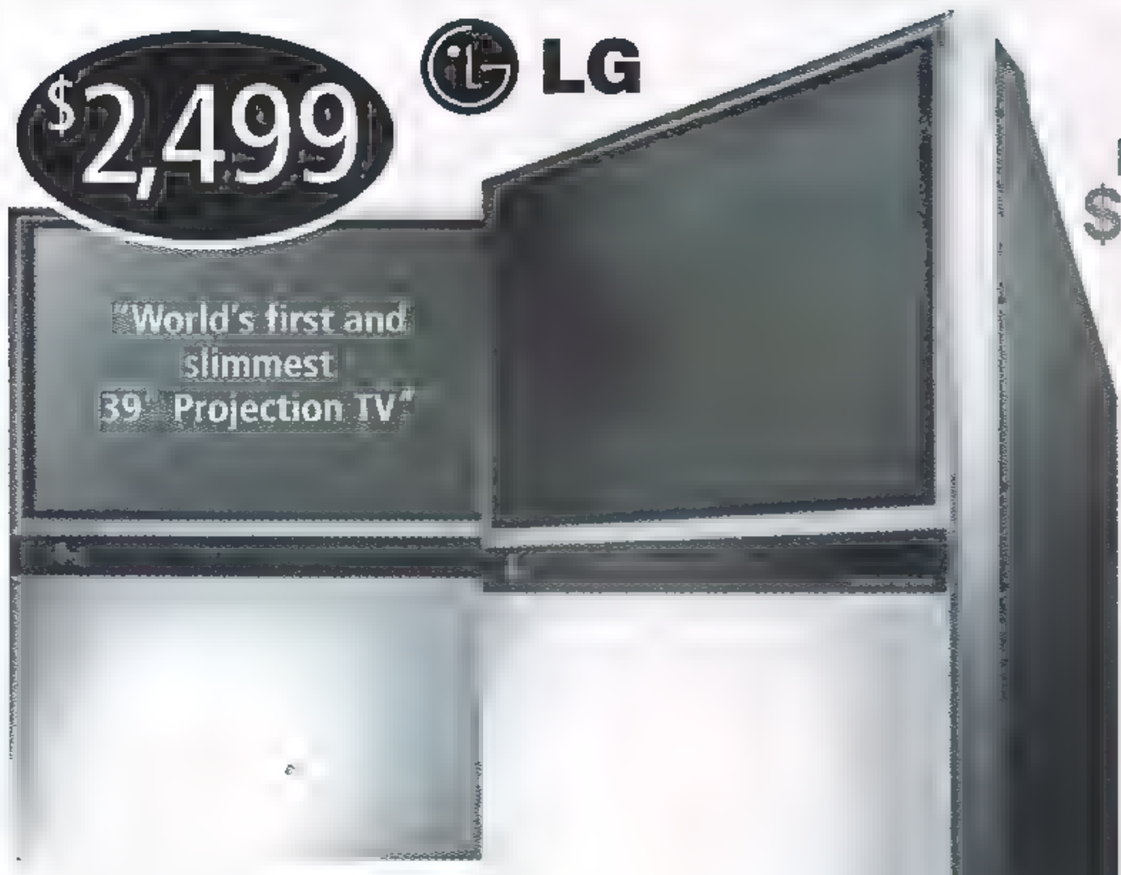
Result	Opponent (home/away)	Scorers
W 4–3	Melbourne Knights (A)	Alagich 47'+, Aloisi 62', Brooks 65', Veart 83'
W 1–0	Wollongong Wolves (A)	Brooks 80'
W 1–0	Marconi Stallions (H)	Veart 3'
L 0–2	Parramatta Power (H)	
L 1–2	Northern Spirit (A)	Vidmar 46'+

brisbane strikers

No.	Name	Age	2003–04 Games	2003–04 Goals
1	Jason Kearton (gk)	34	6	0
2	Karl Dodd	23	21	0
3	Shane Stefanutto	24	16	0
4	Josh McCloughan	28	23	1
5	Stuart McLaren	28	22	1
6	Peter Grierson	34	23	1
7	Steven Fitzsimmons	27	24	2
8	Adam Webber	21	15	0
9	Matt Hilton	18	9	0
10	Royce Brownlie	24	20	3
11	Louis Brain	21	23	2
12	David Pilic	25	24	4
13	Wayne Heath	20	3	0
14	Daniel Dreger	22	1	0
15	Matthew McKay	21	13	1
17	Chris Scuderi	21	5	0
18	Warren Moon	21	14	2
19	Joshua Rose	22	24	5
20	Scott Higgins (gk)	27	17	0
21	Luke Morley	21	17	6
25	Corey Baldock (gk)	28	1	0

FORM GUIDE past five games

Result	Opponent (home/away)	Scorers
W 2–0	Sydney United (H)	McCloughan 20' Pilic 84'
L 2–3	Parramatta Power (A)	Fitzsimmons 56' Rose 81'
L 0–2	Melbourne Knights (A)	
L 0–1	Wollongong Wolves (H)	
L 3–4	Kingz (A)	McKay 7' Rose 54' Fitzsimmons 57'



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ADELAIDE UNITED 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2
Hindmarsh Stadium, 25 February 2004

Andrew Howe, Soccer Information Services

Parramatta Power put on a dominating defensive display to deny Adelaide United its chance to wrap up third spot in the deferred Round Two fixture at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Adelaide's Wednesday night crowd of 12,125 appears to be the second biggest mid-week crowd to ever attend a NSL regular season fixture (excluding public holidays); second only to a reported 15,000 which attended a South Melbourne-St George match in Melbourne 1977, a game where UK legends Charlie George and Malcolm Macdonald were guest players.

In a team more renown for its attacking prowess, Parramatta Power's steadfast back-line proved the difference between the league's second- and third-placed teams. While the flamboyant and popular Ante Milicic, Ahmad Elrich and Simon Colosimo put on typically resolute displays, it was the performances of the lesser-known back-line of Paul O'Grady, Michael Beauchamp and Matthew Thompson which paved the way for the Power's 2-0 victory. The competent defensive wall was well-backed up by goalkeeper Clint Bolton, who pulled off some great saves in the few occasions the ball got through the Parramatta defence.

A cross played diagonally forward by the Power in the 5th minute caused some disarray in the Adelaide United defence, with Milicic first blasting from the edge of the penalty area - a shot which keeper David Scarsella could do nothing but block back into the penalty area. The ball rebounded conveniently to Ahmad Elrich who fired home the opening goal from 10 metres directly in front.

Just one minute later at the other end, Adelaide's Richie Alagich found himself free to blast low and cleanly from 20 metres, his strike bringing out the first of Bolton's spectacular saves.

Milicic unleashed a long-range shot in the 14th minute which just went over the cross-bar, while in the 17th minute home-town hero Fred Agius volleyed a shot from 20 metres which was again foiled brilliantly by a diving Bolton.

The free-flowing first half was dominated territorially by Adelaide, with a half-time corner count of 9-1 to the home team revealing the advantage United held in possession and attacking forays. However Adelaide's first-half barrage of crosses and corners rarely threatened the goal, with Bolton commanding his box well.

The scoreboard then read 2-0 six minutes into the second half, after Milicic had set off on a neat solo run from half-way and scored. With the Adelaide defence initially caught square in the middle of the park, Milicic's 40 metre run ended with a virtually unchallenged shot on target from 12 metres out, despite the efforts of the advancing Scarsella to narrow the angle for Milicic.

Adelaide once again appeared to have the most of possession in the second half, but with such a well-organised and disciplined Parramatta back-line, United was restricted to just one shot at goal - and two forays into the penalty area - in the entire second half.

The Power almost caught Adelaide on the break three times in the latter stages of the game, the raid which ended closest to goal coming in the 86th minute when Elrich combined well with the dangerous Milicic whose shot on target was saved by Scarsella.

Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, who was treating the game as a dress-rehearsal to an upcoming Major Semi Final away match-up against Perth Glory (which should attract a similar crowd), was clearly happy with his team's performance, making special mention of O'Grady, Beauchamp and Bolton.

Adelaide United did little wrong throughout the game, but were just no match for the visitors on the night. The club awarded the player of the match award to Michael Valkanis, with Aurelio Vidmar second and Fred Aguis third.

Despite being thoroughly outclassed, United can still however look back on its away match against the Power earlier in the season, when it got up 2-1 at Parramatta Stadium, to realise it has a reasonable chance to match Parramatta should the two teams meet in the upcoming finals series.

Adelaide: David Scarsella, Aaron Goulding, Mike Valkanis, Kristian Rees, Richie Alagich, Aurelio Vidmar, Ross Aloisi (Shane Thompson 77'), David Terminello (Michael Brooks 61'), Carl Veart, Nick Budin (Aaron Westervelt 55'), Fred Agius.
Parramatta: Clint Bolton, Paul O'Grady, Michael Beauchamp, Matt Thompson (Jack Sobczyk 82'), Simon Colosimo, Ahmad Elrich, Peter Zorbas, Lucas Pantelis, Fernando Rech (Travis Dodd 55'), Saso Petrovski, Ante Milicic (Mark Bridge 88').

mark baylis' match stats

	1st half		2nd half		Total	
	AU	PP	AU	PP	AU	PP
Total shots on goal	4	4	1	2	5	6
Shots on target	4	2	1	1	5	3
Into penalty area	9	3	2	2	11	5
Off-sides conceded	2	8	5	3	7	11
Corners	9	1	2	1	11	2
Unpressured turnovers	7	4	6	4	13	8
Free kicks	13	5	6	8	19	13
Yellow cards	1	1	-	1	1	2
Red Cards	-	-	-	-	-	-

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2
ADELAIDE UNITED 1
Pittwater Park (Sydney), 29 February 2004

Dom Rinaldo, 5DN

The home and away season is now over, the serious stuff begins tonight. What a fantastic season it has been for Adelaide United. If I said to you at the start of the season that Adelaide would finish third, you would have had me locked up. (Can we still lock you up anyway? - Ed.)

The match against Northern Spirit was of no significance to the NSL table. John Kosmina utilized the game to play some of his players who have not had a lot of game time, and to rest others for various reasons. It was a very entertaining game - both teams missed several opportunities, and to be honest a draw would have been a fairer result. Viddies goal directly from a sweetly taken free kick just outside the penalty box second before half-time was magic, but it was a double from the Spirit's Adam Kwasnik which left us empty-handed.

In all, Kossie would have been pleased the way his 'makeshift' team performed. Carl Veart, playing his 300th NSL game, was 5DN's "Player of the Match" (3 points), with Richie Alagich second (2 points) and Westervelt third (1 point).

I have had the privilege of commentating every Adelaide United game this season, and I must say that I have enjoyed every minute of it, not only calling the games, but also before and after the matches, especially the away games. I often talk to interstate media, supporters and former players, and let me tell you, we are the envy of Australian soccer. Also, getting to know the new Adelaide players and the banter with the older players has been a real laugh. I have said this before and I will say it again, the bonding of the players that I witness interstate is a big part of the team's success. Will it be enough to go all the way, maybe?

Also let me say that the facilities of the Hindmarsh Stadium is second to none compared to all other grounds, and as far as the media area is concerned, next to Parramatta Stadium we have the best. Some of the grounds, which I will not name, left a lot to be desired.

It is important to get a good result tonight to take to Brisbane next Saturday night.

My prediction for tonight: Adelaide 2-0.

Nthn Spirit: Paul Henderson (Stuart Page 90'), Alex Wilkinson, Alex Tobin (Matthew Hunter 86'), Matthew Osman, Vuko Tomasevic, Wayne O'Sullivan, Mark Milligan, Jon Richter, Stewart Petrie, Brent Fisher (Michael Mouyis 88'), Adam Kwasnik.
Adelaide: Robert Bajic, Aaron Goulding, Mike Valkanis (Michael Brooks 53'), Richie Alagich, Aurelio Vidmar (Shane Thompson 56'), Aaron Westervelt, David Terminello, Adriano Pellegrino, Carl Veart, Elias Demourtzidis, Fred Agius (Mimi Saric 61').

5DN PLAYER OF THE YEAR after round 26

KRISTIAN REES	**20**	SHANE THOMPSON	5
ROSS ALOISI	19	FRED AGIUS	4
MICHAEL VALKANIS	18	MATTHEW KEMP	3
CARL VEART	17	SHANE SMELTZ	3
AURELIO VIDMAR	17	DAVID SCARSELLA	2
RICHIE ALAGICH	11	NICK BUDIN	1
AARON GOULDING	9	GORAN LOZANOVSKI	1
AARON WESTERVELT	7	MIMI SARIC	1
DAVID TERMINELLO	6		

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Enjoy tonight's game and remember 5DN will broadcast **every Adelaide United game** in the finals.

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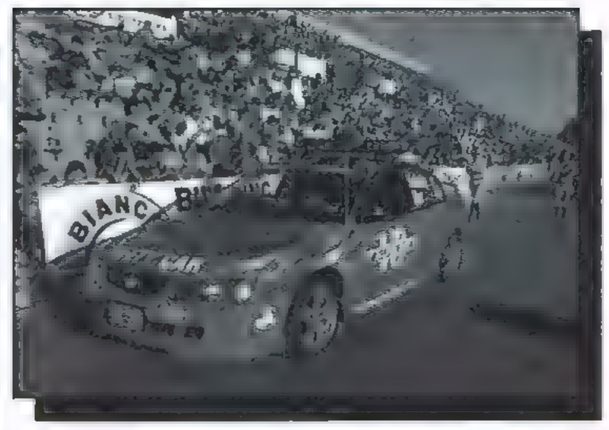

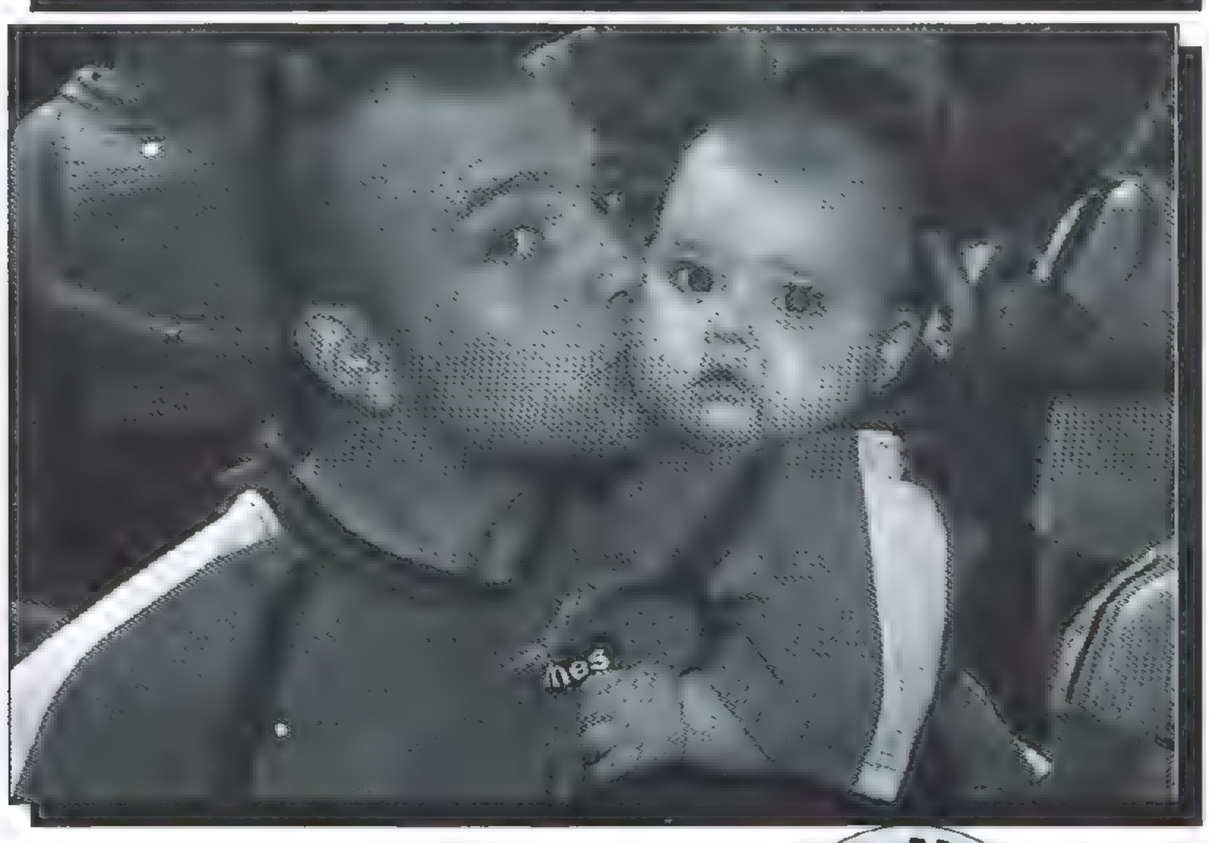

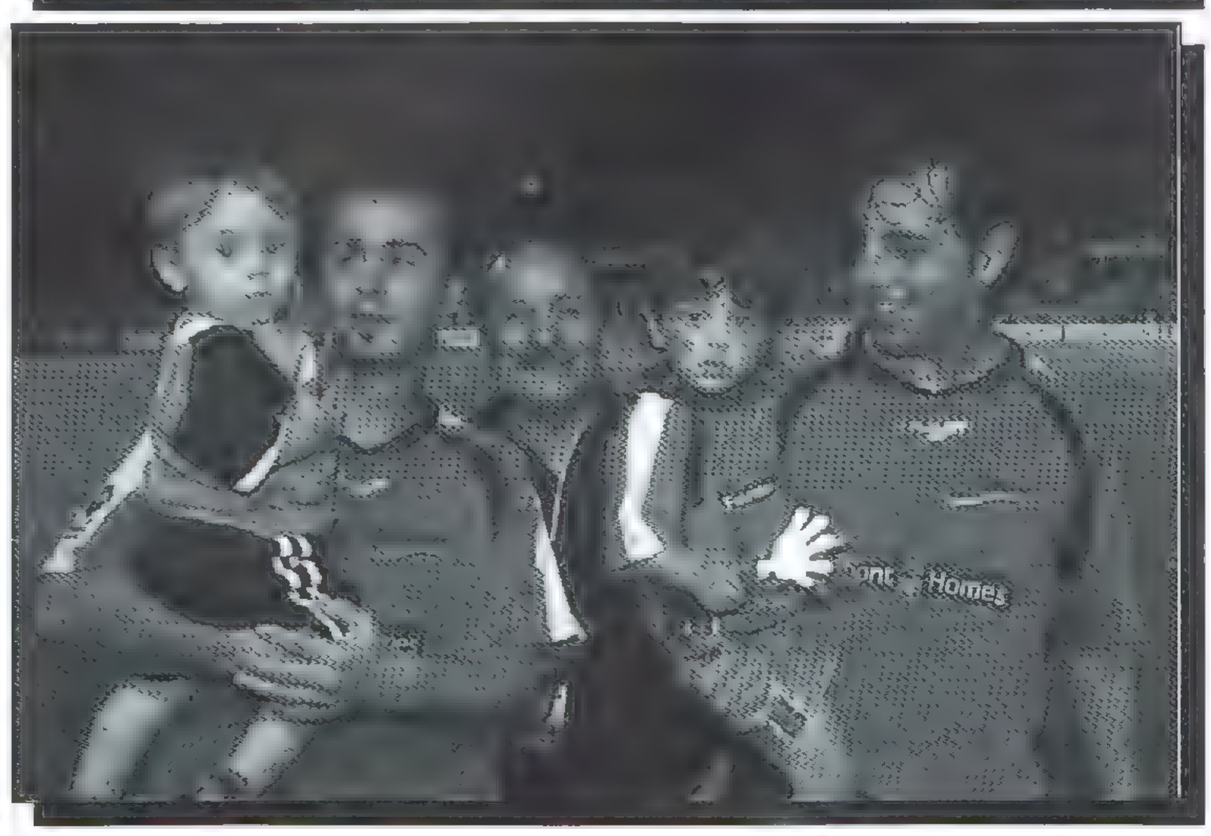

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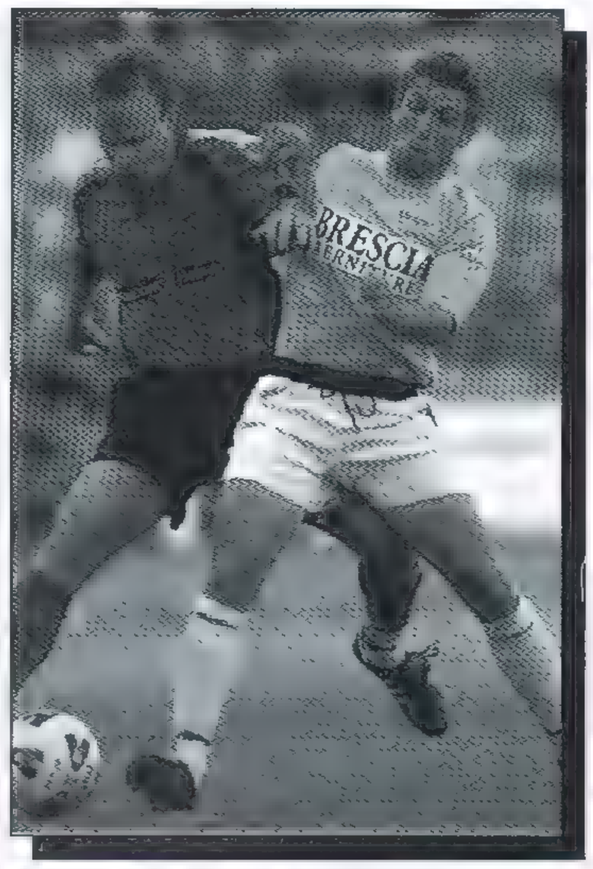

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the ladder that matters

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Perth Glory (Premiers)	24	18	3	3	56	22	34	57
Parramatta Power	24	16	3	5	58	30	28	51
Adelaide United	***24***	***11***	***7***	***6***	***28***	***25***	***3***	***40***
Marconi Stallions	24	10	8	6	29	25	4	38
South Melbourne	24	11	4	9	39	21	18	37
Brisbane Strikers	***24***	***9***	***5***	***10***	***28***	***33***	***-5***	***32***
Northern Spirit	24	9	3	12	31	33	-2	30
Sydney Olympic	24	7	8	9	26	31	-5	29
Wollongong Wolves	24	8	5	11	34	41	-7	29
Sydney United	24	7	8	9	18	25	-7	29
Newcastle United	24	6	6	12	18	33	-15	24
Melbourne Knights	24	6	5	13	21	41	-20	23
Football Kingz	24	4	3	17	25	51	-26	15

Three points per win, one point per draw.

goal grabbers

Player (club)	*Goals*
Ante Milicic (Parramatta Power)	19
Damian Mori (Perth Glory)	14
Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)	12
Nick Mrdja (Perth Glory)	12
Chimaobi Nwaogazi (Wollongong Wolves)	11
Michael Curcija (South Melbourne)	10
Carl Veart (Adelaide United)	***10***
Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic)	9
Bobby Despotovski (Perth Glory)	9
Fernando Rech (Parramatta Power)	9
Stuart Young (Wollongong Wolves)	8
Heremaia Ngata (Football Kingz)	8
Brad Maloney (Marconi Stallions)	7
Anthony Pelikan (Melbourne Knights)	7

crowd watch

Home games	*#*	*Average*
Adelaide United	12	12614
Perth Glory	12	9470
South Melbourne	12	6832
Melbourne Knights	12	3199
Sydney Olympic	12	3115
Newcastle United	12	2849
Sydney United	12	2799
Wollongong Wolves	12	2569
Brisbane Strikers	12	2566
Parramatta Power	12	2326
Northern Spirit	12	2000
Marconi Stallions	12	1941
Football Kingz	12	1273
All clubs	**156**	**4119**

the men in the middle

Referee	*Games*	*Yellows*	*Reds*
Eddie Lennie (WA)	16	44	3
Simon Micallef (NSW)	15	35	2
Mathew Breeze (NSW)	15	33	3
Craig Zetter (SA)	13	51	3
Mark Shield (QLD)	13	38	2
Peter Green (QLD)	12	42	1
Con Diomis (NSW)	12	30	2
Ben Williams (ACT)	10	45	2
Angelo Nardi (WA)	9	35	2
Derek Rugg (NZ)	9	28	2
James Lewis (NNSW)	9	17	2
Perry Mur (VIC)	9	12	1
Brett Hugo (NSW)	6	16	3
Simon Pryzdacz (NSW)	5	19	0
Nathan Rice (NNSW)	2	6	0
Peter O'Leary (NZ)	1	0	0
Total	**156**	**451**	**28**

card count

	Yellows	*Reds*
Northern Spirit	48	2
Marconi Stallions	43	5
Sydney United	40	5
Adelaide United	***43***	***1***
Newcastle United	38	3
Sydney Olympic	36	3
South Melbourne	36	1
Football Kingz	33	2
Melbourne Knights	31	3
Wollongong Wolves	30	1
Brisbane Strikers	***30***	***1***
Parramatta Power	24	1
Perth Glory	19	0
Total	**451**	**28**

previous round

Sat 28.02.04 PERTH GLORY 2 (Mori 83' Mrdja 86') MARCONI STALLIONS 2 (Spiteri 21' 76') at Members Equity Stadium. Crowd 10458.
Sun 29.02.04 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0 SYDNEY UNITED 0 at Knights Stadium. Crowd 8423.
Sun 29.02.04 WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3 (Nwaogazi 10' Young 19' Sabljak 83') NEWCASTLE UNITED 0 at WIN Stadium. Crowd 3531.
Sun 29.02.04 FOOTBALL KINGZ 4 (Hay 42' Ngata 45'pen 81'pen Christie 76') BRISBANE STRIKERS 3 (McKay 7' Rose 54' Fitzsimmons 57') at Ericsson Stadium. Crowd 950.
Sun 29.02.04 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 (Kwasnik 27' 69') ADELAIDE UNITED 1 (Vidmar 46'+) at Pittwater Park. Crowd 2009.
Sun 29.02.04 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 at OKI Jubilee Stadium. Crowd 3682.

this weekend

Elimination Final (1) - first leg	Sun 07.03.04	7:00pm	ADELAIDE UNITED	BRISBANE STRIKERS	Hindmarsh Stadium
Elimination Final (2) - first leg	Sun 07.03.04	3:45pm	MARCONI STALLIONS	SOUTH MELBOURNE	Marconi Stadium

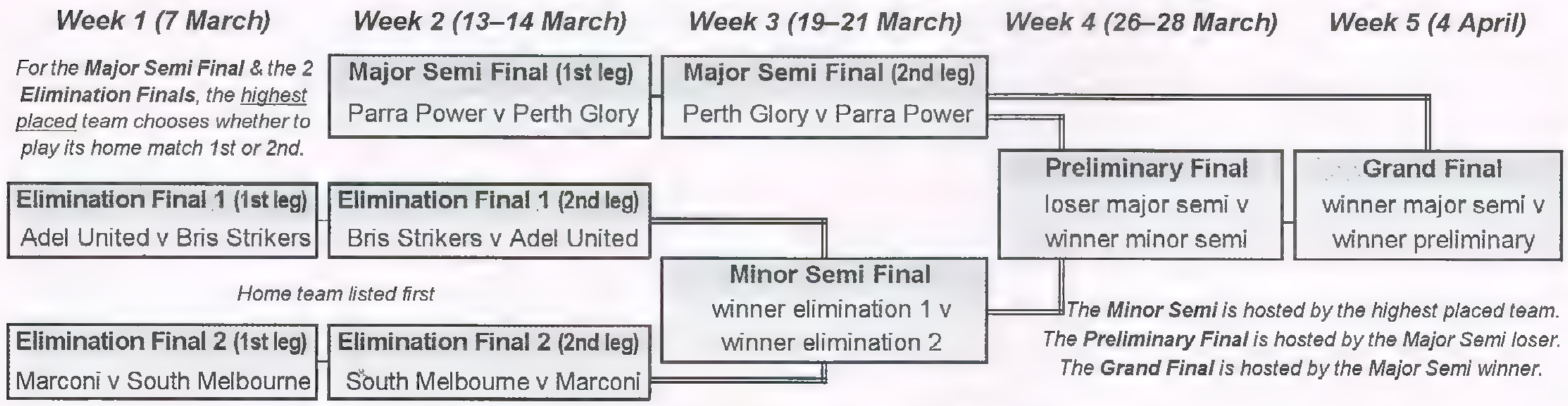
next weekend

Major Semi Final - first leg	Sun 14.03.04	3:45pm	PARRAMATTA POWER	PERTH GLORY	Parramatta Stadium
Elimination Final (1) - second leg	Sat 13.02.04	7:00pm	BRISBANE STRIKERS	ADELAIDE UNITED	Perry Park
Elimination Final (2) - second leg	Sun 14.02.04	7:00pm	SOUTH MELBOURNE	MARCONI STALLIONS	Bob Jane Stadium

local times shown

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders may be liable to prosecution. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the full time whistle. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signals or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

how the nsl top six finals series works



*The Grand Final winning team is declared the **NSL Champions***

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THANK YOU!

The Stand and **Gate 59** wish to thank everybody who has helped them this season. To mention a few is probably unjust but to Gordon Pickard, Angelo Picca, Alison Papas, Basil Scarsella, Sam Ciccarello and Raz Di Carlo, thanks, your support has been incredible. To Kossie and the players, thanks for allowing us to encroach your space. It has made it easy for us to help promote the club and soccer in this state.

All in all it has been a great partnership, which we hope will continue into the future of Adelaide United FC. Some solid foundations have been laid and hopefully the supporters along with the club can continue to go from strength to strength.

To every fan, North, South, East and West, who enter Hindmarsh, wearing their hearts on your sleeves for this club, you are living the dream and your passion is amazing. Tonight is a time to be proud and to be loud.

See you back at Hindmarsh in two weeks!

Adam Butler

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And our Adelaide is rollin' along

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loud n' strong
For where ever you go
You will always know
That United is rollin' along

In the day or in the night
Action left and action right
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

In The Stand, hear us shout
We're UNITED, have no doubt
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

Let the nation see,
Our best artillery,
Shout out our numbers
loud n' strong
For where ever you go
You will always know
That United is rollin' along
Yes! United is rollin' along
YEAH! UNITED!!! is rollin' along

Peter Bawden

bawden's brain bender part 2

Over the second half of the season Adelaide United won 6, drew 2 and lost 4 to tie up third spot on the NSL ladder – test your memory from games 13 to 24!

In game 13 we beat Melbourne Knights at home 2-1:
1. Who scored his first goal for the club? (2 points)

United travelled to Brisbane for game 14 and lost 0-1 before drawing against Newcastle (0-0) and Sydney United (1-1) in games 15 and 16:
2. Who scored his first goal for AU, against Sydney United)? (2 pts)

Game 17 was a 1-0 home victory against Football Kingz:
3. Who received his fourth yellow card for the season? (2 pts)

The trip to Perth for game 18 against reigning champions and ladder leaders saw Damian Mori score two first half goals in the 0-2 defeat:
4. Who won the 5DN "man of the match" award? (2 pts)

Next, a 2-0 win over third-placed South Melbourne at Hindmarsh:
5. In his first start, Fred Agius had a great game that included a neat cross to which player who scored his maiden AU goal? (2 pts)

Our 4-3 win in game 20 against the Knights after just two days rest included many highlights including a David Scarsella penalty save:
6. How many bus loads of fans travelled from Adelaide to Knights Stadium Melbourne to witness this memorable match? (2 pts)

Against Wollongong in game 21, we notched up our 10th win with a 1-0 victory, the 8th time our defence had kept the opposition scoreless:
7. In his 2nd game for AUFC, who his 2nd goal for AUFC? (2 pts)

Game 22 saw Marconi and Adelaide evenly poised on 37 points on the ladder - Veart scored his 10th AUFC goal in an important 1-0 win:
8. How far out from goal was Veart when he scored the winner? (2 pts)

Aiming for our 5th win in a row, second placed Parramatta showed why it was above us on the ladder scoring two goals to nil at Hindmarsh:
9. A crowd of how many thousand attended this mid- week clash? (2pts)

In the last minor round game we lost 2-1 to Northern Spirit:
10. With a sweetly struck free from outside the box, who scored for AU? (2 pts)

How did you go?
0-5 pts: ordinary, you can do better
6-10: well played, you're a contender
11-15: excellent, you're in the finals
16+: the cup is yours!

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nsl finals history

From the commencement of the national league in 1977 until 1983, and again in 1987, the NSL Champions were considered to be the team which finished the regular season at the top of the ladder: the 'first-past-the-post' system.

In 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1987 the top four or five placed teams on the final ladder competed in a 'post- season play-off' series. But with no incentive of playing for Championship honours, and combined with the 'hangover effect' for the team which had already won the Championship by finishing first on the ladder, these matches were of less significance. These series are considered separate competitions.

Year	Result	Crowd
1977	*(not played)*	
1978	Sydney City 4 - Marconi Stallions 2	9136
1979	*1st leg:* Sydney City 1 - Brisbane City 0	2532
	2nd leg: Brisbane City 1 - Sydney City 1	4200
1980	Heidelberg 4 - Sydney City 0	11126
1981	*(not played)*	
1982	St George 3 - Sydney City 1	6145
1983	*(not played)*	
1987	St George 4 - APIA Leichhardt 0	6961

With a restructure of the national league in 1984 came the adoption of the legitimate finals system. Since the 1984 season (except 1987) the winner of the finals series has been considered the Champions – in line with the other major Australian sporting leagues. And from its onset, national league crowds and media coverage increased substantially.

From 1984 until 1991/92, the 'McIntyre' final five system – as used in the other major footballing leagues in Australia at the time – applied. From 1992/93 until 2001/02, a final six system devised for the NSL applied. In 2002/03 a 'Championship Series' applied. In 2003/04 the league reverts to the final six system.

Note that from 1984 to 1986, the national league was split into two conferences, based on a geographic breakdown of teams. The Grand Final winners of each conference played off, over two legs, for the national Championship in the national Grand Final.

nsl grand finals

Season	Result	Venue	Crowd
1984	South Melbourne 2 - Sydney Olympic 1 (1st leg)	Olympic Park	10000
	Sydney Olympic 1 - South Melbourne 2 (2nd leg)	St George Stadium	11221
	South Melbourne 4-2 on aggregate		
1985	Sydney City 0 - Brunswick 1 (1st leg)	St George Stadium	2491
	Brunswick 1 - Sydney City 0 (2nd leg)	Olympic Park	7560
	Brunswick 2-0 on aggregate		
1986	Adelaide City 0 - Sydney Olympic 1 (1st leg)	Hindmarsh Stadium	12232
	Sydney Olympic 1 - Adelaide City 3 (2nd leg)	Parramatta Stadium	14032
	Adelaide City 3-2 on aggregate		
1988	Sydney United 2 (4pen) - Marconi Stallions 2 (5pen)	Parramatta Stadium	17064
1989	Marconi Stallions 1 - Sydney Olympic 0	Parramatta Stadium	23387
1989/90	Marconi Stallions 0 - Sydney Olympic 2	Parramatta Stadium	26352
1990/91	Melbourne Knights 1 (4pen) - South Melb 1 (5pen)	Olympic Park	23318
1991/92	Melbourne Knights 0 (2pen) - Adelaide City 0 (4pen)	Olympic Park	15463
1992/93	Marconi Stallions 1 - Adelaide City 0	Parramatta Stadium	13376
1993/94	Melbourne Knights 0 - Adelaide City 1	Olympic Park	13970
1994/95	Adelaide City 0 - Melbourne Knights 2	Hindmarsh Stadium	15573
1995/96	Melbourne Knights 2 - Marconi Stallions 1	Olympic Park	14258
1996/97	Brisbane Strikers 2 - Sydney United 0	Suncorp Stadium	40446
1997/98	South Melbourne 2 - Carlton 1	Olympic Park	15706
1998/99	South Melbourne 3 - Sydney United 2	Olympic Park	15194
1999/00	Perth Glory 3 (6pen) - Wollongong Wolves 3 (7pen)	Subiaco Oval	43242
2000/01	Wollongong Wolves 2 - South Melbourne 1	Parramatta Stadium	13402
2002/03	Perth Glory 0 - Sydney Olympic 1	Subiaco Oval	42375
2003/04	Perth Glory 2 - Sydney Olympic 0	Subiaco Oval	38111

Marston Medal - *awarded since the 1989/90 Grand Final to the player of the match:*
1989/90 Abbas Saad (Sydney Olympic); 1990/91 Josip Biskic (Melbourne Knights); 1991/92 Alex Tobin (Adelaide City); 1992/93 Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City); 1993/94 Alex Tobin (Adelaide City); 1994/95 Steve Horvat (Melbourne Knights); 1995/96 Andrew Marth (Melbourne Knights); 1996/97 Alan Hunter (Brisbane Strikers); 1997/98 Fausto De Amicis (South Melbourne); 1998/99 Goran Lozanovski (South Melbourne); 1999/00 Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong Wolves); 2000/01 Matthew Horsley (Wollongong Wolves); 2001/02 Ante Milicic (Sydney Olympic); 2002/03 Simon Colosimo (Perth Glory)

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sharing the united fever

Allan Crisp

Fans who have been delighted by the amazing success of NSL broad-based Adelaide United are having a double dip by also remaining loyal to their local Premier or State League clubs.

The concerns exercising the minds of many of these supporters surround the future movements of the players who joined the United NSL squad.

When United was hastily formed it was mutually agreed that the local clubs would release their required players to the national league club.

It also was agreed that the United players would return to their host clubs when the NSL season ends.

In mid-January the South Australian Soccer Federation released a circular to its member clubs advising them of the players who had joined United and the clubs from which they originated.

Adelaide United general manager Sam Ciccarello said it was expected that, at the end of the season, the players would negotiate terms with their host PL and SL clubs on a-one-to-one basis.

"And I would like to emphasise that Adelaide United will not be involved in any of these discussions," Mr Ciccarello said.

"There are general policies in place, but the individual needs of the clubs and the players must be considered."

To avoid any misconceptions, the SASF revisited the clubs to spell out the finer details of intended player transactions.

The United players who came from Adelaide City, and who have signed contracts as NSL players with City, are in a different category to their Premier and State League colleagues.

These players are contracted to Adelaide United until June BUT, could go on loan to local clubs at the end of that month.

An important factor is that each PL or SL club would be restricted to only one "draft pick" when choosing a loan player, other than one from their host club.

However, should a United player decide to change from his original club to another club, the normal SASF transfer procedures would apply.

Mr Ciccarello stressed that when the NSL season concludes the final decision on player movements would rest with coach John Kosmina.

"Some of our players, like Nicky Budin, could be in need of a rest, having come from a season in the Premier League and going straight into the NSL without a break.

"In the end Kossie will take into account the individual needs of the players," Mr Ciccarello said.

"Some might want to earn some money going on loan to clubs, while others might want a complete rest."

Adelaide United Player Status
Table A

Nick Crossley (Modbury Jets): transferred to AIS
Elias Demourtzidis (Olympic): Olympic option.
Sean Widera (Raiders): Raiders option.
Mimi Saric (Adelaide City: City option.
Kristian Rees (Adelaide City): City option.
Adriano Pelegrino (Adelaide City): City option.
Aaron Westervelt (Enfield Falcons): Enfield option.
Shane Thompson (Enfield Falcons): Enfield option.
Richie Alagich (Pirates): Pirates option.
Robert Bajic (Raiders): Raiders option.
Nick Budin (Adelaide City): City option.
Aaron Goulding (Adelaide City): City option.

In the case of Adelaide City, the listed players will command no compensation, should the players wish to transfer to another club on loan from AUFC after February 28 embargoed period, because United has paid City for these players.

The following players do not have any obligation to return to a PL or SL club and may sign with the club of their choice:

David Scarsella, Michael Valkanis, Ross Aloisi, David Terminello, Carl Veart, Shane Smeltz, Aurelio Vidmar, Goran Lozanovski, Matthew Kemp, Fred Agius.

In addition to the above list, any player in Table A who is NOT returning to his original club by February 28, shall be classified as a NSL player and PL and SL clubs may recruit one player from the "pool".

Allan Crisp joins former Socceroo Charley Villani and United striker Michael Brooks on radio RPH (1197am) on Sundays 8.30–9-30am, and links with AUFC captain Aurelio Vidmar and United marketing guru Angelo Picca each Tuesday 7–9am.

Crisp also presents Adelaide United reviews and previews on Monday and Friday mornings on the RPH Morning Sports Show, hosted by Darryl Smith 7–9am.

a weekend to remember!

Thanks to Adelaide United, we have just come back from one of the most memorable weekends we are ever likely to have.

It all started on Saturday 28th of February we arrived at Adelaide Airport for a weekend away with the Adelaide United team.

Our trip began with meeting the team at 12pm where we excitedly received our tickets, itinerary and our tight schedule for the next two days.

We arrived in Sydney and headed to our apartments where we unpacked. After settling in, the boys headed out for a training session, which we were fortunate enough to attend, and Christian had the opportunity to take part in. When training came to a finish we headed back to the apartments and had our dinner. After dinner we had a quick chance to speak with the players due to the game on Sunday against Northern Spirit.

Sunday we all had an early wake up call (thanks to Raz) to meet downstairs for breakfast. Once breakfast was finished the boys had a light training session and a small lunch before leaving for the game. 3:00pm and everyone was ready on the bus (except Sam!), but once everyone was aboard we headed for Pittwater Park. Even though our team played a pretty good game we were unable to bring home a result. After the game we all came back to the apartments where we all met downstairs and ate straight away.

Once again after dinner we were given a chance to speak to the players before we went back to our rooms.

Monday we were on our way home, we all got our wake-up calls (once again thanks to Raz!) and assembled downstairs where we had our breakfast and then headed straight to the airport.

Our weekend away was very busy and very enjoyable, and we would like to extend our thanks to the Adelaide United Football Club for making the trip possible.

Finally a special thanks to the coach, the team, Mr Orazio Di Carlo and Mr Sam Ciccarello for what truly was "A weekend to remember".

by Ms Sara Verdicchio and Mr Christian Verdicchio

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south aussies abroad

PAUL AGOSTINO (former West Adelaide)
GERMAN DIVISION ONE (BUNDESLIGA)
21-02-04: came on in 76' as 1860 Munich lost 3-1 away to VfL Wolfsburg.
28-02-04: came on in 70' as 1860 Munich won 3-1 away to Cologne.

JOHN ALOISI (former Adelaide City)
SPANISH DIVISION ONE (PRIMERA LIGA)
22-02-04: played a full game and scored in the 17th minute as Athletico Osasuna drew 1-1 at home against Mallorca.
28-02-04: started as Athletico Osasuna won 1-0 away to Murcia.

STAN LAZARIDIS (former West Adelaide) *currently injured*

JOEL PORTER (former West Adelaide)
ENGLISH NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO
20-02-04: came on in 13' as Hartlepool drew 1-1 at home against Blackpool.
28-02-04: started as Hartlepool won 4-3 away to Wycombe Wanderers.

TONY VIDMAR (former Adelaide City)
ENGLISH NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE
21-02-04: played a full game as Cardiff won 4-0 at home v Sunderland.
28-02-04: played a full game as Cardiff lost 1-0 away to West Ham.

other aussies abroad

BELGIAN DIVISION TWO
28-02-04: Socceroo **Paul Okon** played a full game as KV Oostende drew 2-2 at home against Brussels. The result sees KV remain tied for second spot in the league, with Brussels leading the competition by a single point.
ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP (CARLING CUP) Final
29-02-04: Socceroo **Mark Schwarzer** (gk) played a full game as Middlesbrough won 2-1 against Bolton. The win, at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, ended Middlesbrough's 128-year wait for a major trophy.
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
29-02-04: Socceroo **Mark Viduka** played a full game and scored in the 34th minute as Leeds United drew 2-2 at home against Liverpool. Meanwhile, for Liverpool, Socceroo **Harry Kewell** also played a full game and scored the opening goal in the 21st minute.
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
24-02-04: Australian Youth captain **Scott McDonald** started as Motherwell won 1-0 at home against Aberdeen. Meanwhile, for Aberdeen, Socceroo **David Zdrilic** played a full game.
SWISS DIVISION ONE (SUPER LEAGUE)
28-02-04: Socceroo **Scott Chipperfield** played a full game as FC Basel won 6-0 at home against Neuchatel Xamax. Meanwhile, for Neuchatel, **Joel Griffiths** played, and received a yellow card.

Information provided by the Australian Soccer Association.

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QUIZ ANSWERS: 1 - David Terminello, 2 - Richie Alagich, 3 - Ross Aloisi, 4 - Carl Veart, 5 - Nick Budin, 6 - 5, 7- Michael Brooks, 8 - 30 metres, 9 - 12,000, 10 - Aurelio Vidmar

british briefs

John Thompson-Mills

When Harry Kewell, made his controversial switch from Leeds to Liverpool, something he said stayed with me.

He suggested that Liverpool was a better club than Man U {another potential destination} because the Merseysiders were on the up while Fergie's mob were on the slide.

Could it be that our 'Arry was right? Well half right at least?

OK, there's no way he could have possibly predicted Rio's drug test brain explosion, but the that aside, the Red Devils are now looking a bit wobbly and by the time you read this their Champions League season could be over.

Nine points behind in the League, and struggling to win when resting a few key players, observing events unfold is a bit like watching someone putting a finger in a dyke. Eventually everything will come flooding out.

Look at what's happened since the end of last season.

David Beckham lost his battle with Fergie and headed for Spain, and despite Paul Scholes saying that it doesn't matter who plays on the right, Ruud van Nistlerooy recently admitted Beckham is badly missed.

Crucially too I think, Veron and CEO Peter Kenyon went to Chelski.

As for their replacements {Kleberson, Djemba Djemba, Bellion and Ronaldo} well, they've at best been inconsistent and at worst not fit to lace Goldenball's boots.

The incredibly stubborn Fergie meanwhile has become embroiled in an increasingly bitter and surely distracting battle with major shareholder John Magnier, over stud rights for their joint owned racehorse Rock of Gibraltor. This could end up in court and split the boardroom in two. Is Fergie losing sight of the bigger picture... like, what his job actually is?

There's the Rio drug test ban... how bad does their defence look without him?!!

Maybe too, the first signs are emerging that in the long term, successful football isn't healthy. Captian Keaneo recently said that the young players must make ManU 100% their life---forget the money and celebrity lifestyle. He says too many players {perhaps O'Shea to name but one} can't think that just because they've had one good season that all the hard work is done.

Maybe the old "form is temporary, class is permanant" adage will end up being true, or maybe as he's done in the past Fergie is preparing to spend gazillions rebuilding his squad.

Whatever happens, with so much negative press coming from Old Trafford at the moment maybe our 'Arry should consider another career as a fortune teller.

JOHN THOMPSON-MILLS
ABC radio *and*
President, Leeds United Supporters Club, Adelaide branch

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the third team

As most of you are reading this magazine, the two teams of players are preparing for this finals series match. But there is a third team in the changing area, also looking forward to an exciting game. A third team?

Yes - the four match officials. They are an important team with a crucial role to play in this game. They, too, have trained and studied hard to reach the pinnacle of soccer in Australia. They have slogged through the heat and cold, the rain and wind on their intensive physical training program. They have been to classes to fine tune their interpretation skills, and have been reported upon and studied via video in every NSL game.

Australian match officials have developed an excellent reputation on the international scene. You see them working in Adelaide perhaps without realising that the top 30 officials also control international games. In the last 12 months our officials have worked at two major world tournaments. A team of Aussie women was appointed to the recent FIFA Women's World Cup played in the USA. They excelled and were retained by FIFA for the whole tournament, finally controlling the USA versus Canada playoff for 3rd place!

Not to be outdone, a team of Aussie men referees was selected for the FIFA Under 20 World Cup played in the United Arab Emirates at the end of 2003. This team also did us proud, once again being appointed to the 3rd place playoff!

So next time you play trivial pursuit try this: "Which Australian teams took part in the playoffs for 3rd place in two FIFA World Cups during 2003?"

We are particularly thrilled about this in Adelaide as two of our referees were part of these teams. Airlie Keen and Matthew Cream were appointed as Assistant Referees in the two teams. Ask them to tell you about their experiences!

Would you like to become a referee? Courses are held in Adelaide for people who would like to take up the whistle and flag. You never know, you could be on the world stage too. If you would like to register your interest contact Tony Spagnoletti [Referees' Commission Secretary] on 8336 5700 or mobile 0417 832 179.

Bill Tattersall, State Referee Coach

adelaide united honours alex

Last Sunday saw the playing retirement of one of Adelaide's – and Australia's – true sporting icons **ALEX TOBIN**.

Alex, with Northern Spirit, bowed out of the playing scene with a win against Adelaide United. Tonight we honour him formally.

Alex grew up in Adelaide, and joined NSL club Adelaide City from WT Brikalla in 1984. He went on to play 436 NSL games with Adelaide City, and eventually amassed a huge 522 total NSL games after spending the past four years in Sydney (with Parramatta Power and Northern Spirit). This is by far the national league's record for most games played by a player.

Alex's national team career is equally impressive. In a 12 year stint with the Socceroos, he made 113 international appearances – another significant record for Australian soccer. From 1988 to 1999, Alex played in three World Cup campaigns, and captained the team from 1995 to 1999.

What more can you say - what a legend.

MEDIA WATCH *Angelo Picca*

Well, what can we say about the media coverage that Adelaide United is currently getting, and has been received right throughout the season, it has been absolutely fantastic!

The media is a very powerful source and Adelaide United has enjoyed a healthy relationship whether it be print media, television or radio or even Internet - brilliant

On that note can I say that **Freddy Agius** has been a revelation and is one of the most popular players, a real crowd favourite. This hasn't gone without notice, and now Freddy is also a favourite with the media – we saw a tremendous spread in the **Sunday Mail** last Sunday by soccer writer **Val Migliaccio**, followed by a great story in Channel 7s **Today Tonight** and **Channel 7** Sport with **Paul Childs**, and not forgetting the recent contribution by **Ian Shuttleworth** and **Jodie Blewett** from **Channel 10**. Well done Freddy and keep up the good work!

NSLSTATSFACTSTRIVIA

congrats kossie!

Tonight, Adelaide United coach JOHN KOSMINA is set to take charge of his 250th NSL game.

After a vast playing career in the NSL, and an 'apprenticeship' head coaching role at NSW state league club Warringah in 1994–1995 (where he won a NSW Premiership title), Kosmina first joined the NSL coaching ranks in 1995/96 at Newcastle Breakers. After three seasons (85 games) at Newcastle he moved to Brisbane Strikers, where he coached from 1999/2000 to 2002/03 (140 games). He joined Adelaide United in September 2003.

Kossie is currently ranked ninth in the NSL's 'most games coached' list.

NSL COACHES - MOST GAMES COACHED
as at 2 March 2004

Zoran Matic	468 games
Frank Arok	429 games
Manfred Schaefer	332 games
Rale Rasic	312 games
Raul Blanco	298 games
Eddie Thomson	272 games
Branko Culina	266 games
John Margaritis	264 games
John Kosmina	**249 games**
David Ratcliffe	229 games

adelaide helping to spread the finals fever!

For the first time in the history of the NSL, the national league Championship (Finals) Series features teams from FIVE different states.

The states represented in the 2003/04 NSL Championship Series are New South Wales (Parramatta Power, Marconi Stallions), Victoria (South Melbourne), Queensland (Brisbane Strikers), Western Australia (Perth Glory) and South Australia (Adelaide United).

The previous highest number of states represented in a Championship Series was four, which last occurred in 1999/2000 (with NSW, Victoria, WA and SA represented).

It is far cry from the 1987, 1988 and 1989 NSL finals series, when just two states (NSW and Victoria) were represented in the finals.

In fact, the 1987 and 1989 finals series featured only Sydney and Melbourne teams.

a home first leg advantage???

The Adelaide United coaching staff, by virtue of finishing higher on the ladder than Brisbane Strikers, had the choice of playing its home leg of the Elimination Final at home or away. Kossie and co have elected to play the first leg at home.

While teams often prefer to play their home match in the second leg of a two-legged tie, NSL history indicates that it is actually the host of the first leg that wins more often.

In 33 home and away ties played in NSL finals since 1984, the team which hosted the first leg has won 19 times – or in 58 per cent of two-legged ties.

The trend of first leg hosts winning on aggregate started in the NSL's first home and away finals tie, the 1984 Grand Final between South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic. In the two-legged 1984 Grand Final, South Melbourne hosted the first leg, winning 2-1 in Melbourne. The second leg, played in Sydney, was also won by South Melbourne 2-1, which resulted in an aggregate scoreline of 4-2 to South Melbourne.

The most recent home and away tie was also won by the first leg hosts - in the 2001/02 Major Semi Final, Perth Glory defeated Newcastle United 4-1 in Perth and followed with a 2-0 loss in the second leg at Newcastle, Perth winning the tie on aggregate 4-3.

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results & line-ups

ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.

Date	Opponent	Venue	Crowd	Result	Fred Agius	Richie Alagich	Ross Aloisi	Robert Bajic	Michael Brooks	Nick Budin	Elias Demourtzidis	Aaron Goulding	Matthew Kemp	Goran Lozanovski	Adriano Pellegrino	Kristian Rees	Mimi Saric	David Scarsella	Shane Smeltz	David Terminello	Shane Thompson	Mike Valkanis	Carl Veart	Aurelio Vidmar	Aaron Westervelt
17.10.03	Brisbane Strikers	Hindmarsh	15,568	W 1–0		●	●y				●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●		○		●	❶	●	
24.10.03	Newcastle United	EnergyAust.	3,005	W 3–2		●	●				●	●	●	●	○	●	○y	●		○		●	❷	❶	
02.11.03	Sydney United	Hindmarsh	14,413	D 0–0		●	●				●	●	●	●y	○	●	○	●				●	●	●	
08.11.03	Marconi Stallions	Marconi	1,820	D 0–0		●	●y				○	●	●	●	○	●		●		○		●	●	●y	●y
16.11.03	Perth Glory	Hindmarsh	13,266	L 1–4		●	●				●	●	❶	●	○	●	○	●		○		●	●y	●	
23.11.03	South Melbourne	Bob Jane	8,359	L 1–2		●	●y	●			○	●	●	●y	○	●y	○		●	○		●y	❶	●	
28.11.03	Wollongong Wolves	Hindmarsh	9,528	D 2–2		●	●	●				●	●	●		●	①		●		○	❶	●	●	○
30.11.03	Sydney Olympic	OKI Jubilee	2,370	D 0–0		●	●	●		○		●		●	●	●	○		●		●		●	●	○y
06.12.03	Football Kingz	Ericsson	1,121	W 3–1		●	●			○		●y		●	❶y	●	●	●	①		●		❶	●	○
10.12.03	Northern Spirit	Hindmarsh	9,159	W 1–0		●	●			○y		●		●	●	●	❶	●y			●		●	●	○y
14.12.03	Sydney Olympic	Hindmarsh	11,153	D 1–1		●	●					●		●		●		●	●	○	❶	○y	●	●r	●
20.12.03	Parramatta Power	Parramatta	1,967	W 2–1		●	❶			●	○	●		●	○y	●y		●		○	●y	●	❶y	s	●
28.12.03	Melbourne Knights	Hindmarsh	13,032	W 2–1		●	●			○		●			○	●		●	○	❶	●	●	❶y	●	●
07.01.04	Brisbane Strikers	Perry	3,298	L 0–1		●y	●			○		●			○	●		●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●
11.01.04	Newcastle United	Hindmarsh	14,280	D 0–0		●	●			●y		●	●			●y	○	●				●	●	●	●
18.01.04	Sydney United	Sydney Utd	2,065	D 1–1	○	❶	●			○		●		○	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●
23.01.04	Football Kingz	Hindmarsh	12,312	W 1–0	○	●	●y			○		●		○y	●	●	●	●				●	❶	●	●
31.01.04	Perth Glory	Members Eq.	9,711	L 0–2	○	●	s			●	○	●			●	●	●y	●		○		●	●y	●	●
06.02.04	South Melbourne	Hindmarsh	12,463	W 2–0	●	●	❶			❶	○	●				●	○	●		●y		●	s	●	●y
08.02.04	Melbourne Knights	Knights	1,164	W 4–3	●	❶	❶		①	●	○	●y			○	●		●		●		●y	❶y	●	s
13.02.04	Wollongong Wolves	WIN	3,010	W 1–0	●	●y	●y		①	●y		●				●		●		●	○	●	●	●	○
20.02.04	Marconi Stallions	Hindmarsh	13,690	W 1–0	●y	●	●y		○	●		●				●		●		●		●	❶	●	○
25.02.04	Parramatta Power	Hindmarsh	12,125	L 0–2	●	●	●		○	●y		●				●		●		●	○	●	●	●	○
29.02.04	Northern Spirit	Pittwater	2,009	L 1–2	●	●		●	○	s	●	●			●y		○			●	○	●	●	❶y	●

●=starting appearance. ○=substitute appearance. s=suspended. goals denoted by number. y=yellow card (do not carry into finals). r=red card.

upcoming matches

Elimination Final - 1st leg	07.03.04	7:00pm	Brisbane Strikers	Hindmarsh Stadium
Elimination Final - 2nd leg	13.03.04	7:00pm(local)	Brisbane Strikers	Perry Park

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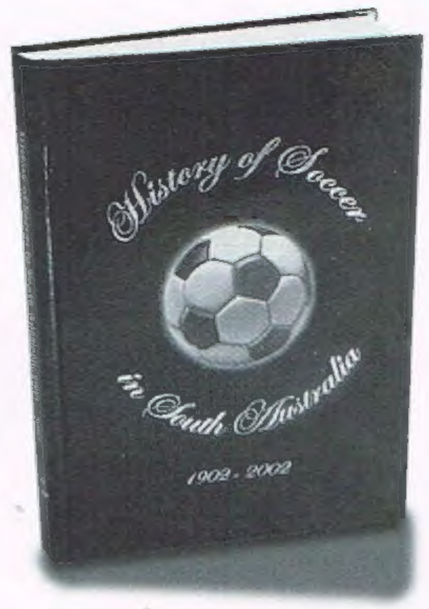

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